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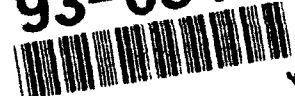
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## 13. ABSTRACT (Maximum 200 words)

No Prehistoric, historic, or architectural sites were discovered in the project right-of-way.

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A CULTURAL RESOURCES SURVEY OF  
THE FLETCHER CREEK, SECTION 14 STUDY,  
SHELBY COUNTY, TENNESSEE - A NEGATIVE FINDING REPORT

U.S. Army Corps of Engineers  
Memphis District

Jimmy D. McNeil  
Staff Archeologist

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September 1989

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# ABSTRACT

On 24 August 89, an intensive cultural resources survey was conducted by the Environmental Analysis Branch of the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District, Staff Archeologists, Mr. Jimmy McNeil and Mr. Douglas Prescott.

The Fletcher Creek erosion area is located  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile southwest of Interchange No. 16 on I-40, east of Memphis. The area covers 11.3 acres.

Proposed work for the area includes grading of the creek bank to a stable angle, and placing rip-rap along and in portions of the creek.

No prehistoric, historic or architectural sites were discovered within the project right-of-way.

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## Introduction

An intensive survey for cultural resources was conducted by Memphis District Archeologists, Mr. Jimmy McNeil and Mr. Douglas Prescott, on 24 August 1989 within the project right-of-way as directed by the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, Memphis District. The study was performed as required by the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 (Public Law 91-190), Protection and Enhancement of Cultural Historic and Cultural Properties (36 CFR 800), and the National Historic Preservation Act of 1966 (Public Law 898-665).

## Project Description

The Fletcher Creek project is located in Shelby County, Tennessee. It is located approximately  $\frac{1}{2}$  mile southwest of Interchange No. 16 on I-40, east of Memphis (Map 1). The project will affect only the creek bank and land adjacent to it (Map 2). The creek banks are to be graded to a stable angle and then covered, at selected spots, with rip-rap. Land adjacent to the creek banks will be used for the deposition of excess materials.

## Environmental Setting

The project area is located along a small portion of Fletcher Creek, which is located in northeastern Shelby county. Fletcher Creek is a tributary of the Wolf River drainage basin. The proposed impact area consists predominately of cleared lands composed of utility company right-of-ways for pipelines and overhead power lines.

Timber resources consist of very few scattered trees adjacent to top bank located at the upper end of the project area. These trees consist of American elm, black willow, red oak, sycamore, sweetgum and river birch. Ditchbank vegetation is limited primarily to johnson grass and various sedge species.

Fauna in the proposed project area of Fletcher Creek is limited due to increased urbanization of the area. Species raccoons, opossum, mice, rats, skunks and

various birds are common to the area. Fishery resources are very limited resulting from the polluted and intermittent condition of the stream.

#### Previous Research

No previous archeological work has been conducted in the direct project area. Work in the general area was conducted by Gerald Smith, various staff members of Chucalissa Museum and Memphis State Museum Anthropology Department between 1968 and 1971. Other work was conducted in the general Memphis area by Gilbert Commonwealth in 1981 and Coastal Environmental, Inc., in 1987.

#### Results of the Records Search

As the area to be surveyed was so small, a record search beyond office files was not conducted. Office files and records did not indicate that any cultural resources were in the project area.

#### Survey Methodology and Results

The Fletcher Creek project area is approximately 11.3 acres in size. The length is approximately 900 feet (274.4 meters). Width varies with a maximum of 300 feet (90 meters). The south side of the creek had 100% visibility and was badly eroded. The north side of the creek had about 50% visibility and was quite swampy. The north side was partially covered with grasses and various wetland weeds. All areas with visible ground surfaces were visually checked for artifacts - none were found. Shovel test units (approximately 30 x 30 x 30 cms) were dug every 30 meters where the surface visibility was bad. No artifacts or cultural indicators were found.

### Recommendations

Based on an infield cultural resources survey and a background records search, no evidence of prehistoric, historic or architectural resources exist within the direct impact zones of the projects. It is recommended that repairs within the projects rights-of-way proceed as planned.

The survey methodology used does not eliminate the possibility of encountering deeply buried sites. Therefore, it is recommended that any site encountered during construction be protected from further damage by stopping construction until its significance can be determined by the Environmental Analysis Branch, Memphis District, U.S. Army Corps of Engineers, in conjunction with the Arkansas Office of the Arkansas Historic Preservation Program.

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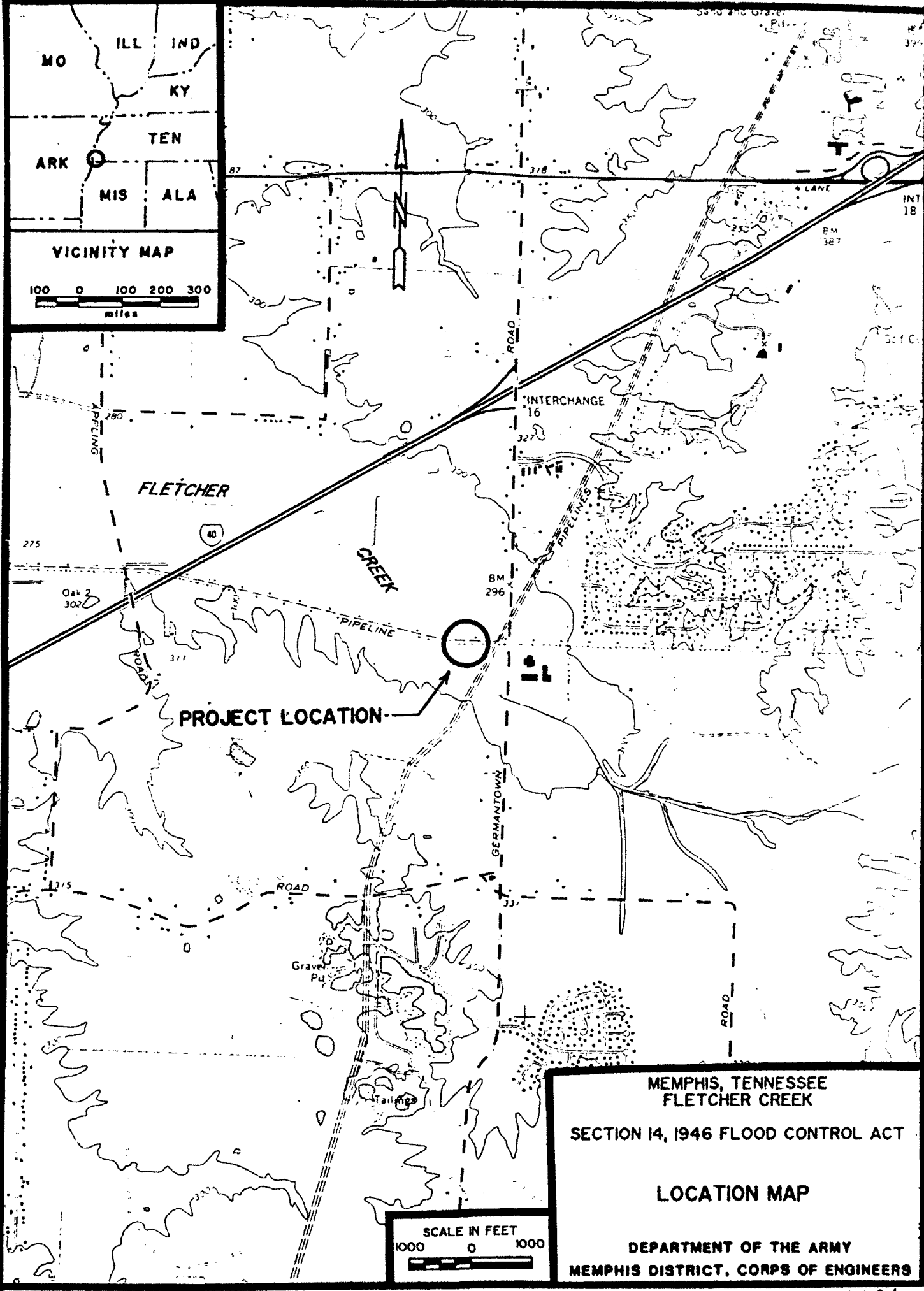
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1979c Archaeological Surveys in the Obion-Forked Deer and Reelfoot-Indian Creek Drainages: 1966 through Early 1975. Occasional Paper No. 9. Anthropological Research Center, Memphis State University, Memphis.

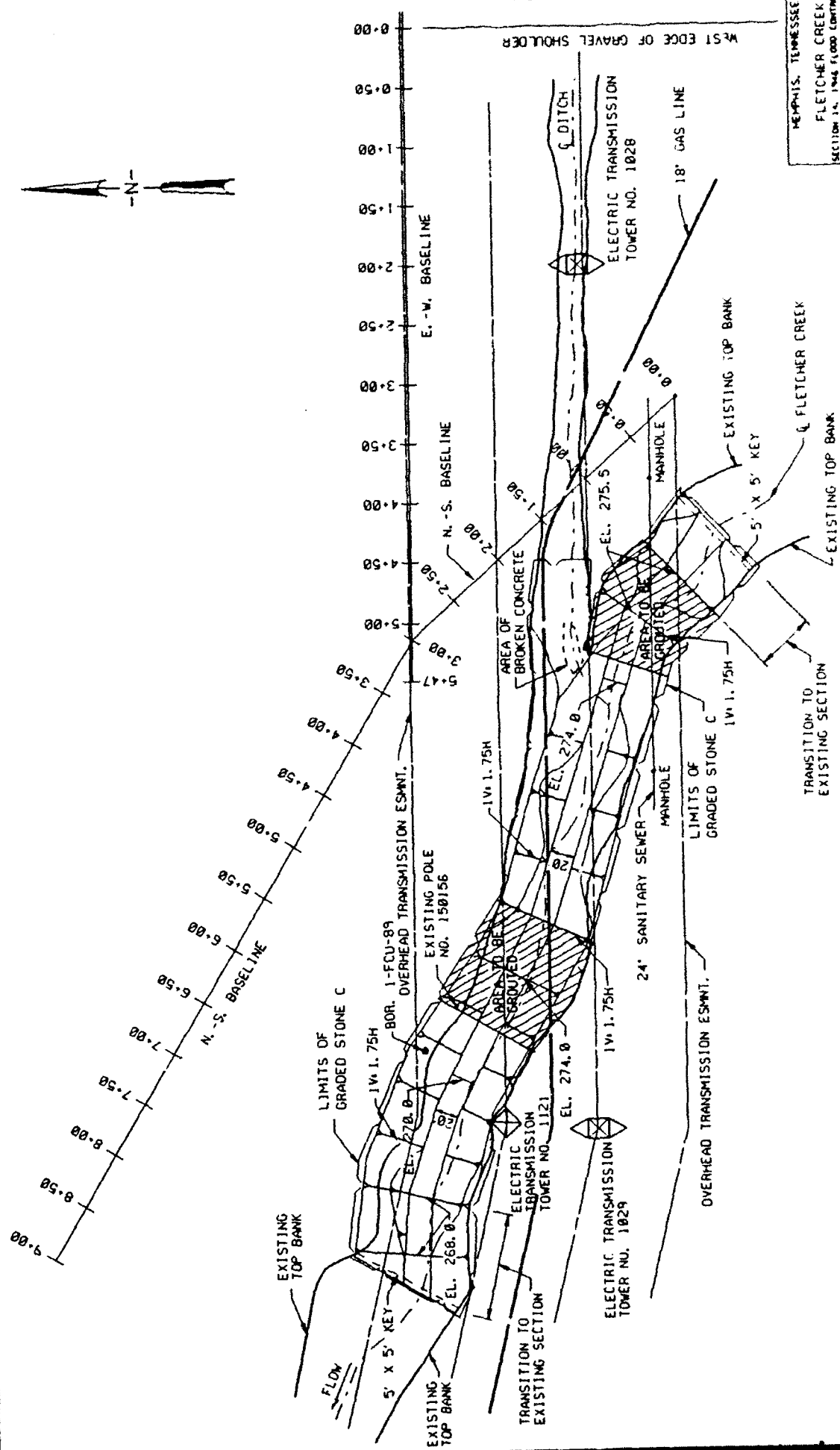
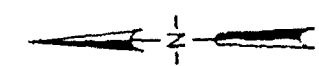
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MAP 1



GERMANTOWN PKWY.

MEMPHIS, TENNESSEE  
FLETCHER CREEK  
SECTION 14, 1944 FLOOD CONTROL ACT  
PLAN VIEW  
DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY  
MEMPHIS DISTRICT, CORPS OF ENGINEERS

MAP 2

PLAN VIEW  
SCALE, 1" = 120'